

SODB-4809K

TO: Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation JAN 1952
Attention: Mr. C. W. Bates

FROM: Lyman B. Kirkpatrick,
Assistant Director

SUBJECT: Ivan ~~WAS~~ VILL, et al
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1. In accordance with the requests made in your memorandum of 7 November 1951, and in your subsequent memoranda of 26 November 1951, 4 January 1952, and 16 January 1952, the following information and comments are submitted by this Agency for assistance in evaluating your informant. Inasmuch as the large quantity of reports in our files concerning the persons mentioned precludes the setting out of detailed information on each person, this report is limited to the pertinent extracts of these reports necessary for a general evaluation of the reliability of your informant.

2. Basically, the information furnished by your informant is both old and often-repeated. Reports containing information similar to that supplied by your informant have been received by this Agency from ~~emigre~~ sources in such quantity as to suggest that these allegations are a matter of common gossip in the various Displaced Persons camps, etc.. It should be noted, therefore, that your informant is possibly repeating information which he heard and believed, particularly what such sub-sources as DULKEITH and KINORGE told him.

3. The background information your informant has furnished on the various individuals is generally confirmed by our available information. His allegations concerning the "Soviet agents", however, cannot be verified, although the individuals he mentions admittedly have questionable backgrounds.

4. The files of this Agency failed to reveal any information regarding Vasily ~~X~~AYDAY, was; or Vasily ~~X~~ILCHENKO, was..

5. Regarding Georgi Vasilovich ~~X~~ATOV & Carl ~~X~~DULKEITH, a report received in March 1929 by this Agency from a fairly reliable source contained the following information on an individual probably identical with him: "Bruno ~~X~~DULKEITH & Georgi ~~X~~SETOV - born in Riga, Latvia, on 3 August 1902. Description: 5'7", slender build, brown eyes, oval face, dark hair turning gray, small mustache. Lives in Hamburg, Germany, Schluterstrasse 4, under the assumed name of Georgi ~~X~~DETTOV. During World War II, he was assigned to the NSRA, Amt VI, "Unternormen (Operation) ZELPHILIN", because of his knowledge of Russia and the Russian language. He is described as strongly anti-communist and absolutely reliable."

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6. Our files also reflect that one Friedrich Otto ~~XXXXXX~~ was the chief of the RWA, 1st VI, 2nd VII section; it is quite possible that he is identical with the E. J. ~~XXXXXX~~ referred to by your informant as ~~XXXXXX~~'s chief in "the Gestapo". However, there is no information in our files indicating any postwar contact between the two, as alleged by your informant.

7. The information regarding Nina ~~XXXXXX~~ reported by your informant and reflected in your files from another informant is generally confirmed by our available information, including a report indicating that she committed suicide. She has previously been reported as a mistress of Mikhail ~~XXXXXX~~, who is believed to be identical with the Mikhail KADIJ mentioned by your informant, and she allegedly worked for MEDIA on the Georgian Liaison Staff which he directed for the Germans during World War II. After the war, she joined MEDIA in Switzerland at his request, later returning to Germany. It was later alleged that she was in contact with a Swiss SIS agent, which may be a reference to MEDIA; however, the allegations that MEDIA has been connected with the SIS have never been substantiated. NIKODSE doubtless furnished information to several intelligence services.

8. Our files fail to reflect any information on Ivan ~~XXXXXX~~, and a query to the field had negative results. However, the field suggested the possibility that your informant may have been referring to one Khariton ~~XXXXXX~~ (also frequently reported as ~~XXXXXX~~, ~~XXXXXX~~, ~~XXXXXX~~, and ~~XXXXXX~~), who has been an official Georgian representative in Switzerland for many years and is an associate of Mikhail MEDIA. Our records failed to indicate that ~~XXXXXX~~ was associated with the International Red Cross, although a report from a fairly reliable source alleged that he had a close contact who was a member of the Centrale Sanitaire Suisse, a left-wing medical aid organization which is allegedly supported by the Soviet Legation in Bern. This report further alleged that Mikhail MEDIA was associated with the Central Sanitaire Suisse. On the basis of a letter written in January 1947 to MEDIA by ~~XXXXXX~~, a copy of which is contained in our files, it appears unlikely that the two are working together as alleged by your informant, since ~~XXXXXX~~ was highly critical of MEDIA's activities - stating that MEDIA was "the center of a Fascist group" and accusing him of engaging in "all manner of intrigues". However, another report, from source of unknown reliability, alleges that MEDIA claims credit for saving ~~XXXXXX~~'s life during World War II when ~~XXXXXX~~ was about to be shot in an SS camp "for making Bolshevik propaganda" among the prisoners of war. If this report is accurate, it obviously would put ~~XXXXXX~~ under obligation to MEDIA.

9. Our files contain a report from a usually reliable source concerning one Nikolai Leonidovich ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~, who is possibly identical with the Leonid ~~XXXXXX~~ mentioned by your informant

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as being a Soviet agent. This report all was that VASILYEV moved to Berlin after the Russian Revolution, and claims that he was imprisoned in a German concentration camp during World War II. He was in Berlin at the time of its occupation by Soviet troops in May 1945, and worked as an interpreter with the Soviet Military Government in Berlin. In 1948, he moved from Berlin to Hamburg, according to the report, and was wearing the Soviet medal "for taking Berlin". He allegedly states that he received this medal for the favors he did the Soviet Army in 1945 while de-mining Berlin. Our source further stated that VASILYEV was a member of the Black Sea Cossacks chorus, but in 1949 he was removed by the conductor, Boris LEBNEVSKI. According to our source, LEBNEVSKI is now in New York, and it is suggested that an interview might possibly determine the reason for VASILYEV's dismissal from the chorus. There is no mention of VASILYEV's contact with anyone named EMBASSIN. It is noted that the CIC Region III Periodic Report for the period ending 29 January 1949 contains further information on an individual believed identical with the VASILYEV mentioned above.

10. Regarding Baron Georgi Nikolaevich VRANGEL, our files reflect a report from a source of unknown reliability concerning one (Baron) Georgi VRANGEL, a journalist, who was living in Hamburg, Germany, in 1950. The report alleged that during the spring of 1950, he published in the Hamburg weekly Die Zeit a series of articles on the strength of the Soviet Army, which made a considerable impression. Although the report stated that VRANGEL was active in the "anti-commintern" during World War II, one of his contacts was listed as Prince KURAKIN, from, "who was active for Soviet intelligence".

11. Our files reflect no information on Mikhail KURAKIN, mentioned by your informant as VRANGEL's AIA chief. The possibility exists that he may be the "Prince KURAKIN" referred to in the above paragraph. It seems possible that a (Prince) Andrei KURAKIN may be the individual referred to in both cases above. KURAKIN (KURAKIN) is employed by the United Nations in Switzerland, and there have been allegations that he is a Soviet agent. Reference is made to memoranda sent to this Agency by your Bureau on 2 April 1948 and 13 May 1948 for further information concerning him.

12. The files of this Agency contain extensive information concerning Mikhail ALCHIRAYA, which is probably another spelling of ALSHIRAYA, a brief summary of which follows: He was born 21 November 1908 in Kutais, Georgia. Description: about 5'7" tall, thick set; weight approximately 200 lbs; thinning brown hair; small triangular beard; yellowish complexion; Asiatic appearance; speaks Georgian, German, Polish, French, some English, and probably Russian. He arrived in Berlin in 1921, and attended various schools in Germany. ALCHIRAYA volunteered for the German Army in 1941. On a furlough in Berlin, he met Mikhail KEDIA, and it was due to this contact that he was discharged from the army in 1943 and appointed to serve on the

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Georgian liaison committee under MEDIA. He allegedly held the position of Treasurer on this committee. Since the war, there have been numerous allegations, primarily from emigre sources, that MEDIA was working for Soviet intelligence as well as for friendly intelligence services. He has also continued his interest in Georgian affairs, serving as a member of the board of directors of the Georgian Committee in Zurich, Germany, and as a Georgian representative to the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN). Regarding your informant's allegation that he was working for the RIS under MEDIA, a report contained in our files dated March 1947 from an emigre source of unknown reliability reflected the same allegation, but no substantiation has been received.

13. This Agency also has considerable information regarding one Mikhail MEDIA, was., who is probably identical with the Mikhail FAVIS mentioned by your informant; a brief summary of this information follows: MEDIA, Mikhail (Michael), ~~GUSEV~~, Michael, ~~GUSEV~~, Michael & MICHAEL, M.. Born 23 February 1902 in Tiflis (Georgia); last reported living in Geneva, Switzerland; he left Georgia in 1921 with his family, arriving in Paris in 1924 after spending the interim in Turkey and Germany. In Paris, he and his father-in-law founded a small yogurt factory from which he still reportedly derives an income. MEDIA became a leader in Georgian activities and, during World War II, he was utilized by the German Intelligence Service in the ZEPPELIN operation to recruit agents for infiltration into Soviet-held territory. He became, for German Intelligence, the leading figure in Caucasian affairs, and he had many high-level contacts in connection with his duties. He worked closely with SS Major Erich (also reported as Otto) HENGELHAUPT. ALONIAVA, REKORSE, and DUTOV & DULKEITH are among the emigres who reportedly served with the Georgian Liaison Staff which MEDIA headed. In 1945, MEDIA, with members of his Staff, went to Switzerland. Since 1945, there has been a considerable volume of reports from various sources, most of whom are of unknown or dubious reliability, describing MEDIA as a high level agent of the RIS. On the basis of our available information, however, his current activities and political loyalty remain unfathomable.

14. As the above summaries indicate, many allegations similar to those made by your informant have been received by this Agency on the various individuals mentioned in your informant's report. Those allegations cannot be proved or disproved on a basis of our available information, nor can they be evaluated through investigations in the field without a vast expenditure of effort. Since your informant is willing to rest his case on the files in Hamburg, the desirability of obtaining these files is apparent. It would be appreciated if your Bureau would interview the informant as to the source of these files, whether they contain information obtained from DULKEITH or from REKORSE, what period they cover, etc.

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15. This Agency offers also to make a closest check of its files for information on your informant. It seems quite probable, on a basis of the volume of information already uncovered, that our files will contain information.

16. This Agency is interested in obtaining the informant's files in Germany, and would welcome further discussion along these lines. It is felt that it is most important, however, that the informant not know of this Agency's interest in the matter.

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